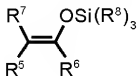


Amendments to the Claims

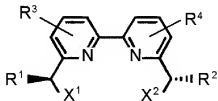
1 (currently amended). A method for producing an optically active hydroxymethylated compound, comprising reacting a silicon enolate and formaldehyde, in the presence of a catalyst, in an aqueous solution or a mixed solvent of water and an organic solvent,

wherein the silicon enolate is represented by the following formula (~~chemical formula 2~~):



wherein R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group and R⁶ represents an alkyl group, an alkyl aryl group, or an aryl group, ~~to R⁷ are hydrogen atoms, aliphatic hydrocarbon groups, monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon groups, monocyclic or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocyclic groups where R⁶ is not a hydrogen atom, R⁵ and R⁷ are not identical, provided that R⁵ and R⁶ may together with the carbon atoms to which they are bonded form a an indene, 1,2-dihydronaphthylene, cyclohexene, cycloheptene or cyclopentene ring, R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, and alkyl aryl group, or an aryl group, and the R⁸ groups, which~~ may be identical or different, are ~~hydrocarbon each alkyl~~ groups, and

the catalyst is obtained by mixing a ligand or its symmetric isomer and a Lewis acid, wherein the ligand is represented by the following formula (~~chemical formula 1~~):



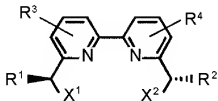
wherein each R¹ and R² group, which may be identical or different, ~~are hydrogen atoms; is an alkyl group groups or an aryl groups group, provided that~~ at least one of R¹ and R² contains at least three carbon atoms, the R³ and R⁴ groups, which may be identical or different, are each hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing one to four carbon atoms or alkoxy groups, the X¹ and X² groups, which may be identical or different, are each -OH or

~~OMe~~ represented by OR^9 , SR^{10} or NHR^{11} , wherein R^9 to R^{11} are hydrogen atoms or alkyl groups, and

the Lewis acid is represented by MY_n , wherein M is Cu, Zn, Fe, Sc or a lanthanoid element, Y is a halogen atom, OAc, OCOCF_3 , ClO_4 , SbF_6 , PF_6 or OSO_2CF_3 and n is 2 or 3.

2 (canceled).

3 (withdrawn). A catalyst obtained by mixing a ligand or its symmetric isomer and a Lewis acid, wherein the ligand is represented by the following formula (chemical formula 1):



wherein R^1 and R^2 , may be identical or different, are hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups or aryl groups, at least one of R^1 and R^2 contains at least three carbon atoms, R^3 and R^4 , may be identical or different, are hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing one to four carbon atoms or alkoxy groups, X^1 and X^2 , may be identical or different, are represented by -OR^9 , -SR^{10} or -NHR^{11} , wherein R^9 to R^{11} are hydrogen atoms or alkyl groups, and the Lewis acid is represented by MY_n , wherein M is Cu, Zn, Fe, Sc or a lanthanoid element, Y is a halogen atom, OAc, OCOCF_3 , ClO_4 , SbF_6 , PF_6 or OSO_2CF_3 and n is 2 or 3.